

# "A Man of Mark"

A Romance of a Bank's Gold and a Beautiful Prima Donna

By ANTHONY HOPE

## SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS.

Martin, an American twenty-two years old, poor to the point of starvation, on the coast of South America, is the manager of a bank. He is a native of Virginia, and a son of a wealthy family. He has been in the bank for some time, and has been successful in his work. He has a beautiful prima donna, who is the daughter of a wealthy family. She is a beautiful girl, and is very popular. She is the daughter of a wealthy family, and is very popular. She is the daughter of a wealthy family, and is very popular.

## CHAPTER IV.

### Overtures from the Opposition

HE established herself in a pretty villa close adjoining the Golden House; it stood opposite the Presidential grounds, commanding a view of that stately inclosure; and here she dwelt, under the care of a lady whom she called "aunt," known to the rest of the world as Mrs. Carrington. The title "Signorina" was purely professional; for all I know the name "Nugent" was equally a creature of choice; but, anyhow, the lady herself never professed to be anything but English, and openly stated that she retained her title simply because it was more musical than that of "miss."

The old lady and the young one lived together in great apparent comfort; for they probably got through more money than any one in the town, and there always seemed to be plenty more where that came from.

Where it did come from was, I need hardly say, a subject of keen curiosity in social circles; and when I state that the Signorina was now about twenty-three years of age and of remarkably pleasing appearance, it will be allowed that we in Whittingham were no worse than other people if we entertained some uncharitable suspicions.

The Signorina, however, did not make the work of detection at all easy. She became almost at once a leading figure in society; her "salon" was the leading meeting place of all parties and most sets; she received many gracious attentions from the Golden House, but none on which scandal could definitely settle. She was also frequently the hostess of members of the opposition, and of no one more often than their leader, Col. George McGregor, a gentleman of Scotch extraction, but not pronouncedly national characteristics, who had attained a high position in the land of his adoption; for not only did he lead the opposition in politics, but he was also second in command of the army.

He entered the chamber as one of the President's nominees (for the latter had reserved to himself power to nominate five members), but at the time of which I write the Colonel had deserted his former chief, and secured in his popularity with the forces, defied the man by whose help he had risen. Naturally the President disliked him, a feeling I cordially shared. But his excellency's disapproval did not prevent the Signorina receiving McGregor with great cordiality, though here again with no more emprossment than his position seemed to demand.

I have as much curiosity as my neighbors, and I was proportionately gratified when the doors of "Mon Repos," as the Signorina called her residence, were opened to me. My curiosity, I must confess, was not unmixed with other feelings; for I was a young man of heart, though events had thrown sombre responsibility upon the might of the Signorina in her daily drives was enough to inspire a thrill even in the soul of a bank manager. She was certainly very beautiful—a tall, fair girl, with straight features and laughing eyes.

I shall not attempt more description, because all such descriptions sound commonplace, and the Signorina was, even by the admission of her enemies, at least very far from commonplace. It must suffice to say that, like Father O'Flynn, she had such a way with her that all of us men in Aurestaland, old and young, rich and poor, were at her feet, or ready to be there on the least encouragement.

She was, to my thinking, the very genius of health, beauty and gaiety; and she put the crowning touch to her charms by very openly and frankly soliciting the attention of the Signorina in her daily drives was enough to inspire a thrill even in the soul of a bank manager. She was certainly very beautiful—a tall, fair girl, with straight features and laughing eyes.

of gaming, was our hostess's favorite delectation. The Colonel was not to my pleasure an equally invariable guest, and the President himself would often honor the party with his presence, an honor we found rather expensive, for his luck at all games of skill or chance was extraordinary.

"I have always trusted fortune," he would say, "and to me she is not tickle."

"Who would be tickle if Your Excellency were pleased to trust her?" the Signorina would respond, with a glance of almost fond admiration.

"This sort of thing did not please McGregor. He made no concealment of the fact that he claimed the foremost place among the Signorina's admirers, utterly declining to make way even for the President."

The latter took his boorishness very quietly, and I could not avoid the conclusion that the President held, or thought he held, the trump. I was, naturally, intensely jealous of both these great men, and, although I had no cause to complain of my treatment, I could not stifle some resentment at the idea that I was, after all, an outsider and not allowed a part in the real drama that was going on. My happiness was further

damned by the fact that luck ran steadily against me, and I saw my bonus dwindling very rapidly. I suppose I may as well be frank and confess that my bonus, to speak strictly, vanished within six months after I first set foot in "Mon Repos," and I found it necessary to make that temporary use of the "interest fund" which the President had indicated as ever open; my uneasiness on this score was lightened when the next instalment of interest was punctually paid, and with useful confidence, I made little doubt that luck would turn before long.

Thus time passed on, and the beginning of 1914 found us all leading an apparently untroubled life. In public affairs the temper was very different. The scarcity of money was intense, and serious murmuring had arisen, which the President "squandered" his ready money in paying interest, leaving his civil servants and soldiers unpaid.

This was the topic of much discussion in the press at the time when I went up one March evening to the Signorina's. I had been detained at the bank, and found the play in full swing when I came in. The Signorina was taking no part in it, but sat by herself on a low lounge by the veranda window. I went up to her and made my bow.

"You spare us but little of your time, Mr. Martin," she said. "Ah, but you have all my thoughts," I replied, for she was looking charming.

"I don't care so much about your thoughts," she said. Then, after a pause, she went on: "It's very hot here; come into the conservatory."

It almost looked as though she had been waiting for me, and I followed in high delight into the long, narrow, glass house, running parallel to the "salon." High green plants hid us from the view of those inside, and we only heard distinctly his excellency's voice, saying with much gentleness to the Colonel: "Well, you must be lucky in love, Colonel," from which I concluded that the Colonel was not in the vein at cards.

The Signorina smiled slightly as she heard; then she plucked a white rose, turned round, and stood facing me, slightly flushed as though with some inner excitement.

"I am afraid those two gentlemen do not love one another," she said. "Hardly," I assented. "And you, do you love them—or either of them?" "I love only one person in Aurestaland," I replied, as ardently as I dared.

## PORTO RICAN WOMEN LOSE.

House Kills Suffrage Amendment as Citizenship Bill Passes.

WASHINGTON, May 23.—The House struck from the Porto Rican Citizenship bill to-day, by a vote of 80 to 59, an amendment designed to grant woman

suffrage. The bill then passed without roll call, virtually as introduced. The vote on the amendment showed

organizations packed the galleries. The bill gives the Porto Rican Government all of its internal revenue. Heretofore revenues on goods used in the United States have gone to the Federal Treasury.

## YUAN SHI-KAI IS UPHELD.

Banking Conference Decides President Must Stay for Present.

PEKING, May 23.—The conference assembled at Nanking, consisting of one delegate from each of the ten loyal provinces of China, has decided that Yuan Shi-Kai must remain President of the Republic until a properly elected

Parliament chooses his successor. The province of Henan, on the western frontier, has declared its independence.

## NAME NEW RAILROAD HEADS.

Richard T. Ashon was to-day elected Vice President and Director of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway, vice William A. Gardner, deceased. Marvin Huggitt was named Vice President in charge of

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- No. 2084 Third Avenue Tel. Harlem 2420
- No. 1909 Amsterdam Ave. Tel. Audubon 8700
- No. 140 E. 15th Street Tel. Stuyvesant 4950
- No. 281 Lenox Avenue Tel. Morningside 120
- Courtlandt Av. & 148th St. Tel. Melrose 2000
- No. 142 East 15th Street Tel. Stuyvesant 1200
- No. 173 Hunter Avenue Long Island City Tel. Astoria 1088
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WE encourage and desire telephone trade. It makes up a large percentage of our annual sales. Every employee, therefore, should be particularly considerate of all telephone callers and should handle telephone orders in a way that will reflect credit on the store and hold the goodwill and patronage of our customers.

Please read the following suggestions on answering the telephone and follow them at every opportunity:

1. Always answer the telephone promptly.
2. Don't say "Hello." Answer with your name and the name of your department.
3. Be ready with your order pad, in order not to keep your caller waiting.
4. If you require help in handling the call properly, get it at once, or politely transfer the call to the employee who can best handle it.
5. If you answer for another employee, offer to take the message, then call it to the other's attention at the first opportunity.
6. Remember, abruptness or indifference drives away trade.
7. Maintain the same courtesy and consideration in a telephone conversation that you would with your customer face to face.

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